industrial belts have been opened and forms/procedures have been reviewed & simplified so as to delegate enhanced power on lower functionaries to settle the claims. Massive computerisation programme has also been launched for streamlining/automising settlement of the claims. The work relating to settlement of claims is also being regularly monitored through Central Action Plan.

Improvement in the Working of ESI Scheme

2218. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the steps being taken to improve the working of ESI Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): The ESI Scheme provides for payment of cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity and employment injury. The scheme also provides for medical care and treatment of the insured persons and their families in kind. The work relating to administration of cash benefits is being directly administered by the ESIC. The process of disbursement of cash benefits among the insured persons is generally satisfactory. However, there have been some complaints in administration of ESI medical care. Under the ESI Act the responsibility for administration of medical care vests in the State Governments except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is administered by the ESIC direct. Therefore, the complaints about ESI medical care as and when received are forwarded to the concerned State Govenment for taking appropriate remedical action. However, the ESIC sees to it that the insured persons do get proper medical care and treatment from the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. For this purpose the Corporation has prescribed norms/guide lines for staffing and equipping of hospitals/dispensaries. The Corporation also meets 7/8th expenditure incurred on medical care by the State Govts. Recently the Corporation has increased the ceiling on ESI medical care from Rs. 410/- to Rs. 500/- with effect from 1.4.97.

The Corporation has also planned to provide all basic essential equipments to ESI dispensaries all over India as one time measure. Its cost will be met outside the ceiling in usual ratio. The ESI Corporation has planned to upgrade and modernise the ESI Hospitals by providing facilities of ultrasonography, auto analyser, resuscitation equipments, Cardiac monitor, Pulse-Cymeter, dental and blood bank units etc. In order to ensure propoer functioning of medical equipments the Corporation has advised the State Governments to enter into Annual Maintenance Contract with reputed organisations or with the supplier of the equipments. Four Occupational Diseases Centres *i.e.* one each at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Chennai have been set up for providing specialised treatment to IPs suffering from Occupational Diseases. The cost of Occupational Diseases Centres will be fully met by the ESIC. The Corporation has also decided to re-imburse full cost for the insured persons whose case is referred to renowned medical institutions for Super Speciality Treatment. In order to have better co-ordination and monitoring of the performance of the Regions a system of Nodal Officers has been introduced by the ESIC.

Non-Payment of Wages to the Workers

2219. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of wages to the workers in a number of Public Sector Undertakings in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and what steps are being taken to see the workers get their wages regularly?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware about non-payment of wages in some of the PSUs. Most of the PSUs which have defaulted

in the payment of wages are those which have been referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) to evolve a strategy for payment of statutory dues (including wages) to the employees of CPSUs. The GOM met on 29.8.97 but could not finalise a strategy on account of dissolution of the Parliament. The present Government is seized of the problem. In the union budget for 1998-99 a provision of Rs. 1482 crores has been made for non-plan loans to Public Sector Enterprises mainly for payment of salaries and wages to the employees of sick and convalescent PSUs.

देश में बाल मजदूर

2220. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में बाल मजदूरों की राज्य-वार अनुमानित संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) बाल मजदूरी रोकने के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा किए गए फैसले के परिप्रेक्ष्य में अब तक कानून के उल्लंघन के कितने मामले दर्ज हुए हैं; क्या इस संबंध में किसी व्यक्ति को दंडित किया गया है; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों में कितने बाल मजदूरों का पुनर्वास किया गया है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा० सत्यानारायण जटिया): (क) 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार, कामकाजी बच्चों की राज्यवार संख्या विवरण में दी गयी है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) और (ग) उच्चतम न्यायालय ने दिनांक 10.12.96 के अपने निर्णय में, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, बाल श्रमिकों का सर्वेक्षण करवाए जाने और जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में बच्चों को नियोजित करने के लिए चूककर्ता नियोजकों से क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में 20,000/- रु० वसूल किए जाने का निदेश दिया था। सर्वेक्षण का पहला चरण पहले ही पूरा कर लिया गया है। जोखिमकारी और गैर जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्यरत पहचान किए गए बच्चों की संख्या क्रमशः 126665 और 428305 थी। समुचित सरकारें, बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत उपबंधों को भी प्रवर्तित करती रही हैं। उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार वर्ष 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान चलाए गए अभियोजनाओं तथा प्राप्त सिद्धि दोषों की कुल संख्या निम्नानुसार है:—

वर्ष	अभियोजनों की संख्या	सिद्धिदोषों की संख्या
1996-97	458	18
1997-98	676	29

(घ) जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्य करने वाले 1.5 लाख बच्चों के पुनर्वास के लिए अभी तक 76 बाल श्रम परियोजनाओं की मंजूरी प्रदान की गयी है। परियोजना के अन्तर्गत शामिल किए गए अधिकांश बच्चे चालू वर्ष के दौरान विशेष स्कूल की शिक्षा का अपना तीसरा वर्ष पूरा करेंगे।

विवरण

1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार कामकाजी बच्चों का राज्य-वार वितरण

	राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र	कुल कर्मकार
1.	आन्ध्र प्रदेश	1,661,940
2.	असम	327,598
3.	बिहार	942,255
4.	गुजरात	523,585
5.	हरियाणा	109,691
6.	हिमाचल प्रदेश	56,438
7.	जम्मू एवं कश्मीर	**
8.	कर्नाटक	976,247
9.	केरल	34,800
10.	मध्य प्रदेश	1,352,563
11.	महाराष्ट्र	1,068,418
12.	मणिपुर	16,493
13.	मेघालय	34,633
14.	नागालैण्ड	16.476
15.	उड़ीसा	452,394
16.	पंजाब	142,868
17.	राजस्थान	774,199